

Memorandum to Mr. Nichols

November 1, 1955

to go to the Soviet Union in August, 1955. On July 21, 1955, Kennedy saw the Director and advised that he was leaving for Southern Russia, July 27. ✓

The October 21, 1955, issue of U. S. News & World Report contains an article (attached) entitled "A Look Behind the Russian Smiles," which is an interview with Kennedy covering his six-week tour of Russia and Central Asia. This is a rather lengthy article which reflects Kennedy's views of Russian life. It points out that in some areas they were the first American visitors in many, many years; that the secret police watched Douglas and Kennedy, monitored their conversations and prohibited their travel to some areas. The article covers slave labor camps, segregated schools, the general life of people in Russia, the activities of LVD personnel, and general information concerning living conditions in Russia. ✓

MISCELLANEOUS:

Kennedy talked with the Director on January 28 and February 15, 1954, apparently on personal matters. ✓

In March, 1954, Kennedy talked with Mr. Nichols concerning the testimony of Mr. and Mrs. James Branca in the Annie Lee Moss case; and the Director noted, "The attitude of Kennedy in this matter clearly shows need for absolute circumspection in any conversation with him." ✓

In January, 1955, the Bureau was confidentially advised that Kennedy and his subcommittee were conducting inquiries on wire tapping in the District of Columbia and that they had contacted telephone company officials in this regard. ✓

In 1955, Harry Lev testified before Kennedy's subcommittee in connection with the manufacture of military hats and caps. Contacted by Bureau Agents before Lev's testimony, Kennedy was uncooperative in that he advised Agents he would prefer waiting until Lev's testimony had been completed and then make data concerning this case available to the Bureau. In this connection the Director noted, "Kennedy was completely uncooperative until after he had squeezed all the publicity out of the matter he could." ✓

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

✓
✓
✓